

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A sterile patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, and wherein the hydrogel comprises ~~about 10%~~ from about 0.5% to about 20% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Original) The patch of claim 1, wherein the breathable backing comprises a polyester/polyether copolymer film.
4. (Original) The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.
5. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
6. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 5, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.
- 7 – 11. Cancelled.
12. (Currently amended) A package containing a sterile patch, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, and wherein the hydrogel comprises about 10% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
13. (Original) The package of claim 12, wherein the breathable backing comprises a polyester/polyether copolymer film.
14. (Original) The package of claim 12, wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.
15. (Previously presented) The package of claim 12, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
16. (Previously presented) The package of claim 15, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.

17 – 21. Cancelled.

22. (Currently amended) A method of inducing local anesthesia in a mammal comprising topically applying a sterile patch to the mammal, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, and wherein the hydrogel comprises about 10% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. Cancelled.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the breathable backing comprises a polyester/polyether copolymer film.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.

28 – 54. Cancelled.

55. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 10% to about 30%, by weight, of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

56. (Currently amended) The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about ~~0.5% to about 20%~~ 2% to about 10%, by weight, of local anesthetic.

57. Cancelled.

58. Cancelled.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the patch is applied to non-intact skin on the mammal.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the patch is applied to a burn or wound of the skin.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the patch is applied to a surgically closed wound of the skin.

62. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 4, wherein the preservative is a blend of paraben esters in phenoxyethanol.
63. (Previously presented) The package of claim 14, wherein the preservative is a blend of paraben esters in phenoxyethanol.
64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the preservative is a blend of paraben esters in phenoxyethanol.
65. (Currently amended) A sterile patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, and wherein the hydrogel comprises about 10% to about 20% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
66. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 65, wherein the breathable backing comprises a polyester/polyether copolymer film.
67. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 65, wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.
68. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 65, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
69. (Previously presented) The patch of claim 68, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.